

FOR A PLACE ON THE BALLOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT OFFICES TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

SECTION 12. Section 172.122(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The state chair shall certify *by posting on the secretary of state's website* ~~[in writing as the party's nominee]~~ the name and address of each primary candidate who is nominated for a statewide or district office. *The state chair shall execute and file with the secretary of state an affidavit certifying that the returns posted on the secretary of state's website are the correct and complete returns. The secretary of state may adopt by rule a process to allow the chair to submit the affidavit digitally.*

SECTION 13. The heading to Section 172.124, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 172.124. REPORTING PRECINCT RESULTS TO SECRETARY OF STATE RELATING TO CANDIDATES WHO FILED AN APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE BALLOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

SECTION 14. Section 172.124(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) For each primary election, the county *clerk* ~~[chair]~~ shall prepare a report of the number of votes, including early voting votes, received in each county election precinct by each candidate for a statewide office or the office of United States representative, state senator, or state representative, as provided by Section 67.017 for the report of precinct results for a general election.

SECTION 15. The following provisions of the Election Code are repealed:

- (1) Sections 172.021(e) and (g);
- (2) Sections 172.116(c), (d), and (e);
- (3) Section 172.117(b); and
- (4) Sections 172.120(c), (d), and (e).

SECTION 16. As soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 2016, the secretary of state shall complete the modifications to the secretary of state's website as necessary to enable compliance with the changes in law made by this Act. This section expires January 1, 2017.

SECTION 17. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 23, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 30, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 27, 2015: Yeas 141, Nays 3, two present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE SUPPLY OF
GROUNDWATER IN AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PUBLIC
HEALTH OF CERTAIN REGIONAL WATER PLANS**

CHAPTER 1180

S.B. No. 1101

AN ACT

relating to the authority to determine the supply of groundwater in and potential impacts on public health of certain regional water plans.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 16.053(e), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Each regional water planning group shall submit to the development board a regional water plan that:

(1) is consistent with the guidance principles for the state water plan adopted by the development board under Section 16.051(d);

(2) provides information based on data provided or approved by the development board in a format consistent with the guidelines provided by the development board under Subsection (d);

(2-a) is consistent with the desired future conditions adopted under Section 36.108 for the relevant aquifers located in the regional water planning area as of the date the board most recently adopted a state water plan under Section 16.051 or, at the option of the regional water planning group, established subsequent to the adoption of the most recent plan; *provided, however, that if no groundwater conservation district exists within the area of the regional water planning group, the regional water planning group shall determine the supply of groundwater for regional planning purposes; the Texas Water Development Board shall review and approve, prior to inclusion in the regional water plan, that the groundwater supply for the regional planning group without a groundwater conservation district in its area is physically compatible, using the board's groundwater availability models, with the desired future conditions adopted under Section 36.108 for the relevant aquifers in the groundwater management area that are regulated by groundwater conservation districts;*

(3) identifies:

(A) each source of water supply in the regional water planning area, including information supplied by the executive administrator on the amount of modeled available groundwater in accordance with the guidelines provided by the development board under Subsections (d) and (f);

(B) factors specific to each source of water supply to be considered in determining whether to initiate a drought response;

(C) actions to be taken as part of the response; and

(D) existing major water infrastructure facilities that may be used for interconnections in the event of an emergency shortage of water;

(4) has specific provisions for water management strategies to be used during a drought of record;

(5) includes but is not limited to consideration of the following:

(A) any existing water or drought planning efforts addressing all or a portion of the region *and potential impacts on public health, safety, or welfare in this state;*

(B) approved groundwater conservation district management plans and other plans submitted under Section 16.054;

(C) all potentially feasible water management strategies, including but not limited to improved conservation, reuse, and management of existing water supplies, conjunctive use, acquisition of available existing water supplies, and development of new water supplies;

(D) protection of existing water rights in the region;

(E) opportunities for and the benefits of developing regional water supply facilities or providing regional management of water supply facilities;

(F) appropriate provision for environmental water needs and for the effect of upstream development on the bays, estuaries, and arms of the Gulf of Mexico and the effect of plans on navigation;

(G) provisions in Section 11.085(k)(1) if interbasin transfers are contemplated;

(H) voluntary transfer of water within the region using, but not limited to, regional water banks, sales, leases, options, subordination agreements, and financing agreements; and

(I) emergency transfer of water under Section 11.139, including information on the part of each permit, certified filing, or certificate of adjudication for nonmunicipal use in the region that may be transferred without causing unreasonable damage to the property of the nonmunicipal water rights holder;

(6) identifies river and stream segments of unique ecological value and sites of unique value for the construction of reservoirs that the regional water planning group recommends for protection under Section 16.051;

(7) assesses the impact of the plan on unique river and stream segments identified in Subdivision (6) if the regional water planning group or the legislature determines that a site of unique ecological value exists;

(8) describes the impact of proposed water projects on water quality; and

(9) includes information on:

(A) projected water use and conservation in the regional water planning area; and

(B) the implementation of state and regional water plan projects, including water conservation strategies, necessary to meet the state's projected water demands.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 30, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 29, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 1; passed the House, with amendments, on May 26, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 2, two present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

PROTECTION AND USE OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

CHAPTER 1181

S.B. No. 1132

AN ACT

relating to the protection and use of certain products, information, and technology of the Parks and Wildlife Department.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Sec. 11.351. PROTECTION AND USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. (a) The department may:

(1) apply for, register, secure, hold, and protect under the laws of the United States, any state, or any nation:

(A) a patent for an invention or discovery of, or improvement to, any process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter;

(B) a copyright for an original work of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression now known or later developed that can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated;

(C) a trademark, service mark, collective mark, or certification mark for a word, name, symbol, device, or slogan, or any combination of those items, that has been adopted and used by the department to identify goods or services and distinguish those goods or services from other goods or services; or

(D) other evidence of protection or exclusivity issued in or for intellectual property;

(2) enter into a contract with an individual or company for the sale, lease, marketing, or other distribution of intellectual property of the department;